MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
State Fire Marshal Division

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Policy #: INS ED-02 (2007)	Subject of Policy: Occupant Loads in Music Rooms of Schools		
Reviewed and Approved By: Jerry Rosendahl	Title: State Fire Marshal	Effective Date: 11/1/1999	Revised Date: July 10, 2007

APPLIES TO:
All Inspection Personnel, Inspection Supervisors, Code/Plans Specialists.

PURPOSE:
To provide for uniform application of provisions relating to occupant load calculations for music rooms of schools as required by MSFC (07) Section 1004.

POLICY:

SECTION 1 — OCCUPANT LOADS IN MUSIC ROOMS OF SCHOOLS

For purposes of computing the occupant load to determine when additional exits are needed, music rooms (such as band, orchestra and choir rooms) should be assigned an occupant load of 20 square feet per person. Based on this occupant load factor, a second exit would be needed when the size of this room exceeds 1,000 square feet (50 occupants times 20 square feet/occupant).

RATIONALE:
Based on conversations with the State Building Codes and Standards as to determination of a reasonable occupant load factor to assign to these uses, a decision was made to use 20 sq. ft. This decision was based on the 20 square foot occupant load factor that is used for classrooms. Also considered was the fact that music rooms often contain band equipment or instruments that would decrease the amount of space available for the occupants.

This decision was also based on recognition of the fact that several existing schools have music rooms which would be required to install additional exiting if an assembly use occupant load factors were utilized. A 7 square foot factor would require second exit when a room exceeds 350 square feet, while a 15 square foot factor would require a second exit when a room exceeds 750 square feet. It is felt that the lack of a second exit in an existing band, orchestra or choir room of 1,000 square feet or less in size does not constitute a distinct hazard.